

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177813

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM KUX

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN VISITS

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 10448, (B) NEW DELHI 10496

1. DAVE SCHNEIDER'S CONSULTATIONS HAVE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE POSSIBLE TIMING OF A DESAI VISIT IN SOME DETAIL. THE WORKING LEVEL CONCLUSION IS THAT THERE MAY BE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE NUCLEAR AREA IF HE COMES IN OCTOBER RATHER THAN NEXT SPRING, WHICH WAS OUR ORIGINAL ASSUMPTION. SINCE DESAI IS FAR OUT AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE GOVERNMENT ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION, OUR BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS ON FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS MAY BE IN HAVING THE PROBLEM TAKEN UP DIRECTLY WITH HIM AT THE TOP IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BEFORE RATHER THAN AFTER A CRITICAL STAGE IN OUR
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NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS IS REACHED, PRESUMABLY TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

2. THE SECOND AND RELATED POINT CONCERNS THE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS SHOULD WE ULTIMATELY FALL SHORT IN ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS. A SUCCESSFUL VISIT THIS FALL BY THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD PRO-

VIDE FAR GREATER INCENTIVE FOR THE INDIANS TO TRY TO LIMIT
THE BILATERAL DAMAGE THAT DISAGREEMENT AND POSSIBLE U.S.

CUTOFF OF TARAPUR SUPPLIES WILL CAUSE. MOREOVER, A VISIT
NEXT SPRING MIGHT COINCIDE WITH THE NUCLEAR ISSUES COMING
TO A HEAD. THIS COULD AMPLIFY THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON
BILATERAL RELATIONS SHOULD THE NUCLEAR TALKS FAIL.

3. THE PROBLEM IN URGING A FALL VISIT IS OF COURSE ONE OF
SCHEDULING. THE CALENDAR IS ALREADY BADLY OVERCROWDED AND
IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GET APPROVAL FOR DESAI.
ONE WAY OF INCREASING THE CHANCES FOR FALL WOULD BE TO
LINK THE WASHINGTON TRIP WITH A VISIT BY THE PRIME MIN-
ISTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS. THE PROGRAM OF THE WASHINGTON
VISIT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE THE STANDARD OFFI-
CIAL VISIT PATTERN -- STAYING AT BLAIR HOUSE, DINNER WITH
THE PRESIDENT, ETC., AND THUS SHOULD NOT PRESENT ANY
PROTOCOL PROBLEMS WITH THE INDIANS, BUT THE WASHINGTON/UN
LINKUP WOULD PROVIDE A WAY TO DEAL WITH OTHER HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT WHOSE FEELERS FOR INVITATION ARE BEING PUT OFF.

4. NEA IS WILLING TO RECOMMEND AN INVITATION THIS FALL ON
THIS BASIS IF YOU BELIEVE IT IS DESIRABLE. IN ORDER TO
MOVE FORWARD, HOWEVER, A STRONG PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM YOU
IS NEEDED. AT THIS POINT I DON'T THINK IT IS NECESSARY
TO TALK OF SPECIFIC DATES, BUT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING
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THAT THE UN GENERAL DEBATE RUNS UNTIL OCTOBER 13.

5. AT THIS POINT WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THE TIMING OF THE
DESAI VISIT WITH THE INDIAN EMBASSY NOR HAVE THEY ASKED
US ABOUT POSSIBLE FALL DATES, SUGGESTING THAT DELHI HAS
NOT TOLD THEM ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY. VANCE

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